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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/759,215	01/16/2001	Thomas W. Krause		1823

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EXAMINER

EHICHIOYA, FRED I

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2172

DATE MAILED: 10/22/2003

14

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/759,215

Applicant(s)

KRAUSE, THOMAS W.

Examiner

Fred I. Ehichioya

Art Unit

2172

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 22 September 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 - 22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s) _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

DETAILED ACTION

1. Response to communications filed on September 22, 2003.
2. Claims 1 - 22 are pending in this office action.
3. Applicant amends claims 1, 14, 18 and 21.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent, or on an international application by another who has fulfilled the requirements of paragraphs (1), (2), and (4) of section 371(c) of this title before the invention thereof by the applicant for patent.

The changes made to 35 U.S.C. 102(e) by the American Inventors Protection Act of 1999 (AIPA) and the Intellectual Property and High Technology Technical Amendments Act of 2002 do not apply when the reference is a U.S. patent resulting directly or indirectly from an international application filed before November 29, 2000. Therefore, the prior art date of the reference is determined under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) prior to the amendment by the AIPA (pre-AIPA 35 U.S.C. 102(e)).

Claims 1 - 7, 12 - 14, 18, 21 and 22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C 102(e) as been anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,340,978 issues to Gordon Scott Mindrum (hereinafter "Gordon").

Regarding claim 1, Mindrum teaches a computer-implemented method for providing a user with age-event information comprising:

a) receiving an input signal comprising age information (see Fig.6 step 92; Mindrum discloses "Scan input as input signal"); and

b) providing an output signal comprising age-event information corresponding to said age information (see column 6, lines 28 - 42; Mindrum discloses, "displays the individual's data of birth as the output signal");

wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual when said second individual was at an age related to the age of said first individual (see column 6, lines 47 - 64; "individual could leave a message for his son once he turns 18 years old is age-event information regarding event that occurred in said second individual").

Regarding claim 2, Mindrum teaches the input signal comprises a date, and the output signal comprises a celebrity ageliner (see column 16, lines 36 - 54; "slider life line bar is the celebrity age liner").

Regarding claim 3, Mindrum teaches the input signal comprises age information relating to a target individual, and the output signal comprises age-event information customized for said target individual (see Fig.6 and column 17, lines 49 –62; “Scan input is the input signal and Fhig.20 illustrates the history screen which is the output signal”).

Regarding claim 4, Mindrum teaches the output signal further comprises a date; and the age event information customized for said target individual comprises information about an event in the life of an age-event individual when the age-event individual was the same age as the target individual on said date (see Fig.20 steps 254 and 255. “These steps illustrate the birth year and historical event as output signal age event information).

Regarding claim 5, Mindrum teaches the input signal comprises a birthdate (see column 16, lines 36 – 39).

Regarding claim 6, Mindrum teaches the input signal comprises an age in years (see column 10, lines 23 – 67).

Regarding claim 7, Mindrum teaches the output signal is obtained by comparing the input signal to an age-event database, and selecting at least one item from the age-event database that corresponds to an age that derives from said inputted age information (see column 16, lines 40 - 48).

Regarding claim 12, Mindrum teaches the step of generating a life-chart for the target individual, wherein said life-chart comprises age-events related to at least about one year of the life of said target individual (see Fig.15; "This figure illustrates the life-chart for a target individual").

Regarding claim 13, Mindrum teaches the steps of generating a life-clock display for the target individual, wherein said life-clock display comprises a symbolic representation of the amount of life an individual has lived and the amount of life an individual has remaining (see column 6, lines 29 – 34; "Mindrum discloses timeline as life-clock); and

providing age-event information on said life-clock display (see column 6, lines 34 – 42).

Regarding claims 14 and 18, Mindrum teaches a computer system for providing age-event information, comprising:

computer processor means for processing data (see Fig.1 step 12);

storage means for storing data on a storage medium (see column 5, lines 18 – 30);

means for receiving age information input (see column 10, lines 20 - 21); and

means, responsive to said receiving means, for outputting age-event information to a user (see Fig.5 and column 7, lines 5 – 17);

wherein said age information comprises information related to the age of a first individual and said age-event information comprises information regarding an event that occurred in the life of a second individual where said second individual was at an age related to the age of said first individual (see column 6, lines 47 – 64; “individual could leave a message for his son once he turns 18 years old is age–event information regarding event that occurred in said second individual”).

Regarding claims 21 and 22, Mindrum teaches the computer-implemented method for providing a user with age-event information of claim 1, wherein the age information received in step a) is related to the age of a first individual (see column 6, lines 53 - 55; “Mindrum disclose father as the first individual”), and said method further comprises:

receiving an input signal comprising the name of a second individual (see column 10, lines 64 - 67; Mindrum discloses James as the name of the second individual in the input signal");

wherein said output signal comprises age-event information comprising information regarding an event that occurred in the life of said second individual when said second individual was at an age related to the age of said first individual (see Fig.20; "Running in NY Marathon is the age-event information that occurred in 1995 of the said output signal").

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 8 – 11, 15 – 17, 19 and 20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Gordon in view of U.S. Patent 5,983,200 issued to Benjamin Slotznick (hereinafter "Slotznick").

Regarding claims 8, 16 and 19, Mindrum does not explicitly disclose the step of generating a customized greeting for the target individual.

Slotznick teaches the step of generating a customized greeting for the target individual (see column 1, lines 38 - 42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Mindrum wherein personalizing the greeting card is targeted at a particular individual. The motivation is that personalizing this card will reflect the age-event information and accomplishments of that particular individual.

Regarding claim 9, Mindrum does not explicitly teach the customized greeting is an electronic greeting card.

Slotznick teaches the customized greeting is an electronic greeting card (see column 1, lines 38 - 42).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Mindrum wherein age-event information is an electronic greeting card. The motivation is that sending electronic greeting card is quicker than the traditional mail system.

Regarding claim 10, Mindrum does not explicitly teach the customized greeting is a greeting card produced at a an automated greeting card kiosk.

Slotznick teaches the customized greeting is a greeting card produced at a an automated greeting card kiosk (see column 1, lines 39 – 45).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Mindrum wherein the customized greeting cards are produced at automated kiosk. The motivation is that it is more convenient to personalize or customize these greeting cards at the automated kiosk.

Regarding claims 11, 17 and 20, Mindrum does not explicitly teach the step of generating a customized calendar for the target individual.

Slotznick teaches the step of generating a customized calendar for the target individual (see Fig.5 step 95 and column 22, lines 23 – 28).

Slotznick teaches the step of generating a customized calendar for the target individual (see Fig.5 step 95 and column 22, lines 23 – 28).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Mindrum wherein customized calendar is generated for a target individual. The motivation is that customizing this calendar acts as a reminder of age—event of a particular individual.

Regarding claim 15, Mindrum does not explicitly disclose means for generating a celebrity ageliner.

Slotznick teaches means for generating a celebrity ageliner (see column 5, lines 41 – 67).

It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to combine teaching of Slotznick with the teaching of Mindrum wherein the celebrity is a congressman and the means for generating a celebrity ageliner is a customized program. The motivation is that the customized program can automatically generate individual information and affix a digitized version of signature. This removes the doubt of authenticity of age-event information.


Conclusion

6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Fred I. Ehichioya whose telephone number is 703-305-8039. The examiner can normally be reached on M - F 8:00 AM to 4:30 PM.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kim Y. Vu can be reached on 703-305-4393. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is 703-303-3900.

Fred I. Ehichioya
Examiner
Art Unit 2172
October 20, 2003


SHAHID ALAM
PRIMARY EXAMINER